

Message Text

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17

ACTION ARA-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 0601

LIMDIS

FOR ARA/APU

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PORG, PA

SUBJECT: CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER - HUMAN RIGHTS

1. ON MY RETURN TO PARAGYA I MADE AN OFFICIAL COURTESY CALL ON FONMIN SAPENA PASTOR FEBRUARY 12 ALTHOUGH, AT HIS REQUEST, HE HAD ALREADY VISITED ME THE DAY BEFORE TO GET MY VIEWS ON MAINTAINING HIS CANDIDATURE FOR THE OAS SECRETARY GENERALSHIP.

2. WHEN ASKED FOR MY IMPRESSIONS OF MY TRIP TO WASHINGTON, I STRESSED THE STRONG CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS. SAPENA SAID HE WAS WELL AWARE OF THIS MATTER AND THAT HE HOPED, ON HIS NEXT TRIP TO THE US, TO HAVE A CHANCE TO MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE ACHE INDIANS. HE SAID THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT WAS DOING ALL IT COULD BUT IF THE WORLD COMMUNITY WAS STILL DISSATISFIED, HE WOULD SUGGEST THAT THROUGH THE UN OR ANY OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION A FUND BE SET UP TO ASSIST THE INDIANS AND THE GOP WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO SUPERVISE ANY INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE ON BEHALF OF THE INDIANS TO ASSURE THAT THIS FOREIGN AID WERE CHANNELLED TO THEM.

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HE SAID THAT AMBASSADOR SOLANO LOPEZ HAD ALREADY

INFORMED HIM OF US INTEREST ON THIS TOPIC.

3. SAPENA ALSO SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF THE PLOT DISCOVERED AGAINST PRESIDENT STROESSNER'S LIFE IN LATE NOVEMBER, A NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAD BEEN ARRESTED BUT THAT MOST OF THEM HAVE NOW BEEN RELEASED.

4. IN REPLY TO MY QUESTION ABOUT THE APPROXIMATELY 36 PERSONS WHO WERE DETAINED, SOME OF THEM FOR MANY YEARS, BY THE GOP AS TERRORISTS, SAPENA SAID THE GOP WOULD DEARLY LIKE TO GET RID OF THEM AND THAT HE EVEN HAD TRIED THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT TO TAKE SOME OF THE HARD CORE CASES BUT HE HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY POSITIVE RESPONSE.

5. AS I MAKE FURTHER COURTESY CALLS ON OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT I SHALL CONTINUE TO RAISE DISCREETLY THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, PARTICULARLY TO THOSE MINISTERS WHOSE DEPARTMENTS ARE THE RECIPIENTS OF FOREIGN AID AND THEREFORE CONCERNED WITH OUR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION.

LANDAU

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